UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/841
2 August 1999
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 2 AUGUST 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 1 August 1999 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the crimes committed by the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 29 and 30 July 1999 when they bombed civilian areas in Iraq, killing dozens of civilians and wounding dozens more, and destroyed many civilian installations, and requesting you to intervene with the United States and the United Kingdom to put an end to these acts of aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

99-22579 (E) 030899 030899

Annex

Letter dated 1 August 1999 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 22 July 1999, I have the honour to inform you that on 29 and 30 July 1999 the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland committed further barbarous crimes in the north and south of Iraq, in addition to the series of hideous crimes that those two States commit on a daily basis against the people and Republic of Iraq. Details of these crimes on the two days mentioned appear below:

1. At 0610 hours on 29 July 1999, eight formations of United States and British aircraft flew 20 sorties from Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace supported by one AWACS early-warning aircraft from inside Saudi airspace and one E-2C aircraft from inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew Muthanna, Najaf, Karbala and Wasit governorates in the south of Iraq and bombed a number of civilian and service installations and peaceful Iraqi residential districts in the Wasit governorate, killing eight Iraqi civilians and wounding 25, most of whom were women and children, and destroying a number of peaceful residential buildings, causing material damage to many others.

At 1020 hours on the same day, nine formations of United States and British aircraft carried out 18 further sorties from Turkish airspace supported by an AWACS aircraft, they overflew Dohuk, Irbil and Ninawa governorates in the northern region, bombing civilian and service installations in Ninawa governorate and wounding several civilians.

2. At 1630 hours on 30 July 1999, 22 United States and British formations flew 32 armed sorties from Saudi airspace and 24 armed sorties from Kuwaiti airspace, supported by two AWACS and E-2C command and control aircraft from Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew Basra, Muthanna, Dhi Qar, Najaf and Maysan governorates in the southern region, and bombed civilian service installations and residential districts in the town of Najaf, killing three citizens and wounding two others.

At 1100 hours on the same day, 11 formations of United States and British aircraft carried out 24 armed sorties from Turkish airspace supported by an AWACS aircraft. They overflew Dohuk, Irbil and Ninawa governorates in northern Iraq, bombing civilian and service installations in Ninawa governorate killing six civilians and wounding 21.

This brings to 10,683 the total number of armed sorties flown, up to 30 July 1999, by United States and British aircraft from Turkish, Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace since the day of the barbarous armed aggression against Iraq on 17 December 1998.

I wish to point out that the United States Administration and the British Government imposed the two so-called air exclusion zones on the illusory and entirely mendacious pretext of "protecting civilians" in the southern and

northern regions of Iraq, that armed sorties have been flown under the guise of self-defence and the enforcement of Security Council resolutions and that they have bombed Iraqi installations irrespective of their nature, and outside the framework of international legitimacy.

The area in which these crimes have been committed is devoid of any military objective. This means that the main objective of the bombing was to injure, kill and terrorize civilians and to damage the property of the Iraqi people. These hostile acts carried out by two permanent members of the Security Council against Iraqi civilian targets and installations are totally at variance with the Charter of the United Nations and with international law and are a blatant infringement of the sovereignty of an independent State Member of the United Nations and a scandalous violation of all international treaties.

In condemning these repeated criminal acts against Iraqi civilian targets and installations, we urge you to intervene with the United States and the United Kingdom to induce them to put an end to such acts and do not repeat them. The Government of the Republic of Iraq regards all the States - whether those whose aircraft perpetrate these criminal acts or those from whose territory the aircraft take off, such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey - as being fully responsible for these actions, for the damage they have caused and are causing and for the security-related economic and moral threats they have made and are making against the people of the Republic of Iraq. In this connection, we affirm the legally established right of the Republic of Iraq, in accordance with the principle of State responsibility, to seek compensation for the damage it has sustained owing to the perpetration of these brutal acts in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq